

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, HU

SUBJECT: MEDIA COVERAGE OF PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH HUNGARIAN FREEDOM FIGHTERS

1. US MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE PRESIDENT'S OCTOBER 21 MEETING WITH HUNGARIAN FREEDOM FIGHTERS HAS BEEN FAIRLY LIGHT. SEVERAL RADIO STATIONS AND WASHINGTON TV CHANNEL FIVE MENTIONED FACT OF THE MEETING. CHANNEL FIVE NEWS STATED THAT THE PRESIDENT TOLD THE GROUP "THAT HE HOLDS THE WISH AND EXPECTATION THAT SOME DAY HUNGARY WILL BE FREE."
 2. OCTOBER 22 WASHINGTON POST CARRIES PHOTO ON PAGE 3 OF PRESIDENT, HOLDING THE BOOK "REMEMBER HUNGARY," AND MEMBERS OF THE HUNGARIAN-AMERICAN DELEGATION. PHOTO IS CAPTIONED QUOTE PRESIDENT FORD LISTENS TO STATEMENT FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO COMMEMORATE THE AMERICAN AND HUNGARIAN REVOLUTIONS, 1776 AND 1956, AT THE WHITE HOUSE. TO HIS IMMEDIATE LEFT IS THE GROUP'S CHAIRMAN, REP. FRANK HORTON (R.N.Y.). FORD HOLDS A BOOK, A GIFT FROM THE GROUP, WHICH INCLUDES EX-FREEDOM FIGHTERS. UNQUOTE. NO OTHER C? ERAGE IN POST. ON SAME PAGE POST HAS LENGTHY ARTICLE BY MICHAEL GETLER TITLED "QUALITY OF ELECTION DE-
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BATE WORRIES HUNGARIAN NEWSMEN." WIRELESS FILE WILL CARRY

ENTIRE ARTICLE.

3. OCTOBER 22 NEW YORK TIMES HAS ARTICLE WITH REUTERS BY
LINE ON PAGE TEN TITLED "FORD MEETS HUNGARIAN AMERICANS
ON 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF UPRISING". TEXT FOLLOWS QUOTE
PRESIDENT FORD GREETED A DOZEN HUNGARIAN AMERICANS TODAY
ON THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ABORTIVE HUNGARIAN REVOLU-
TION AND TOLD THEM, "I JOIN YOU IN THE WISH FOR FREEDOM."

MR. FORD, WHO ANGERED ETHNIC GROUPS TWO WEEKS AGO BY SAYING
THAT THE SOVIET UNION DID NOT DOMINATE EASTERN EUROPE,
WAS THE FIRST PRESIDENT TO MEET SUCH A GROUP.

THE HUNGARIANS, SOME OF WHOM FOUGHT IN THE REVOLT SUPPRESS-
ED BY SOVIET TANKS AND TROOPS, GAVE HIM A BOOK TITLED
"REMEMBER HUNGARY." THE PRESIDENT SAID, "I ASSURE YOU THAT
THE THOUGHTS EXPRESSED HERE WILLNOTBE FORGOTTEN."

MR. FORD LAST WEEK CLARIFIED HIS REMARKS ABOUT EASTERN
EUROPE, MADE IN A TELEVISED DEBATE WITH THE DEMONCRATIC
PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, JIMMY CARTER. HE ADMITTED HE
HAD MADE AN ERROR AND SAID THE UNITED STATES WOULD NEVER
ACCEPT SOVIET DOMINATION OF EASTERN EUROPE. UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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